

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46-41

ACTION EB-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8612

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1481

LIMDIS

PASS STR

E. O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: GATT

SUBJECT: GATT DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. GATT DIRGEN TOLD ECMIN TODAY HE PROPOSES, IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR MTN, APPOINTMENT OF TWO DEP DIRGENS FOR PERIOD OF MTN AND TO PROMOTE PRESENT SUBSTANTIVE ASSISTANT DIRGEN PATTERSON AND MATHUR TO POSITIONS. PRESENT UNFILLED DEP POSITION WOULD BE FILLED AND ONE ASSISTANT POSITION WOULD BE MOVED UP TO DEPUTY, POSITION REVERTING AFTER MTN TO PRESENT STATUS. LONG SAYS THERE WAS GENTLEMEN'S UNDERSTANDING IN CONNECTION WITH HIS APPOINTMENT THAT DEPUTY POSITION WOULD BE FILLED WITH LDC. HOWEVER IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO PATTERSON TO MOVE SOMEONE IN ABOVE HIM. HE THINKS MATHUR IS AS GOOD AS HE COULD FIND AMONG LDCS LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE. HE PLANS TO CONSULT KEY DELS AND, IF THEY CONCUR, WOULD REQUEST COUNCIL DECISION AND SUBSEQUENT BUDGETARY PROVISION. HOWEVER BUDGET IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE INSIGNIFICANT SINCE POSITION NOT ADDED.

2. LONG ALSO COMMENTED THAT HIS PLAN HAS VIRTUE OF EASING SELECTION OF HIS SUCCESSOR AS DG FROM AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AFTER TRANEGS SINCE HE ASSUMES PATTERSON WILL BE READY LEAVE GATT AT THAT TIME TOO, LEAVING MATHUR, A YOUNGER MAN, AS ONLY DDG IN OFFICE.

3. LONG SAID HE HAD MENTIONED HIS PROPOSAL TO AMB EBERLE IN PARIS.

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4. MISSION COMMENT: WHILE WE KNOW OF NO GENTLEMEN' S UNDERSTANDING SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED, WE ARE INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH LONG' S PROPOSAL SUBJECT TO COMMENT BELOW. ANTICIPATING LONG INTENDS STAY ON AS DG AT LEAST THROUGH 73-75 TRANEGS, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT NO NEW PERSON BE BROUGHT IN OVER PATTERSON SINCE REPS WILL HAVE TO WORK WITH AND THROUGH HIM ON MANY ISSUES. MATHUR IN OUR VIEW IS OF DUBIOUS CALIBRE FOR DEPUTY LEVEL BUT INASMUCH AS HE IS NEITHER A RADICAL INNOVATOR HIMSELF NOR A VERY STRONG ADVOCATE OF SUCH VIEWS ADVANCED BY OTHERS, WE COULD DO A LOT WORSE; INDEED, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT KEY LDCS MAY BALK ABOUT ELEVATING MATHUR AND PUT FORWARD STRONGER PERSON WHEN THEY ARE CONSULTED.

4. RE PARA 2 ABOVE, MISSION INCLINED THINK THIS IS A REASONABLY GOOD SCENARIO IF MATHUR IS DDG FOR LDC MATTERS; IF, HOWEVER, LDCS SHOULD INJECT A STRONGER PERSONALITY INTO " THEIR" DDG SLOT, HE MIGHT WELL ASPIRE TO AND SUCCEED IN REPLACING LONG AT END OF TRANEGS. THIS CONCERN LEADS US TO SUGGEST WE TELL LONG SPECIFICALLY THAT APPROVAL OF HIS PROPOSAL RELATES ONLY TO PERSONS NAMED (I. E. PATTERSON AND MATHUR) AND WE WOULD WISH TO HAVE ENTIRELY NEW LOOK AT QUESTION IF ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE PROPOSED.

5. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS LONG PROPOSAL SHOULD BE VERY CLOSELY HELD PENDING MORE WIDESPREAD DISCLOSURE. RIMESTAD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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